

About the USDA BioPreferred® Program

Program Authorities for the USDA BioPreferred® Program

On February 21, 2012, a Presidential Memorandum, *Driving Innovation and Creating Jobs in Rural America through Biobased and Sustainable Product Procurement* was issued. The goal of the Memorandum is "to ensure that executive departments and agencies effectively execute Federal procurement requirements for biobased products, including those requirements identified in Executive Order 13514 and prescribed in the 2002 Farm Bill, as amended by the 2008 Farm Bill."

Section 9002 of the 2002 Farm Bill (Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, 7 U.S.C. 8102) requires the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop and implement a biobased product procurement program designed to increase the purchase and use of biobased products. Also mandated in this legislation is an awards program for Federal employees "that use a substantial amount of biobased products."

The BioPreferred Program

The BioPreferred program is managed by USDA under the Assistant Secretary for Administration. The purpose of the USDA BioPreferred program is to promote the increased purchase and use of biobased products. The program is expected to promote economic development, creating new jobs and providing new markets for farm commodities. The increased purchase of biobased products is also expected to reduce petroleum consumption, increase the use of renewable resources, better manage the carbon cycle, and may contribute to reducing adverse environmental and health impacts.

The BioPreferred program has two major components: a Federal Procurement Preference program and a Voluntary Labeling program.

Detailed information on the BioPreferred program can be found on the USDA website at www.biopreferred.gov .